

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01

AID-20 PC-04 CCO-00 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2025

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: INITIAL RETURNS (REPORT NO. 1)

REF: CARACAS 10460 AND 10459

SUMMARY: FIRST AND VERY INCOMPLETE UNOFFICIAL RETURNS INDICATE A MASSIVE CONCENTRATION OF PRESIDENTIAL VOTES FOR THE AD AND COPEI PARTIES, BUT NO CLEAR-CUT ADVANTAGE FOR EITHER. END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH NO MAJOR DISTURBANCES SEEM TO HAVE OCCURRED BEFORE OR DURING THE BALLOTING, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE NATIONAL GUARD SHOT TWO ARMED PERSONS IN THE WESTERN PART OF CARACAS ON DECEMBER 9, AND THAT POLICE PREVENTED ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE TWO ELECTRICAL PLANTS IN THE CARACAS AREA. SHORTLY AFTER THE POLLS CLOSED THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 9 THE NATIONAL GUARD HAD TO USE FORCE TO DISPERSE A CROWD OF ABOUT 1,000 PERSONS GATHERED AT THE TWIN TOWERS IN DOWNTOWN CARACAS (WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL IS LOCATED), PROTESTING THEIR INABILITY TO VOTE BECAUSE OF THE REGISTRATION MUDDLE (CARACAS 10459).

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2. AS OF 1:30 A.M. DECEMBER 10, ACCION DEMOCRATICA CLAIMED 94,575 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES FOR CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO 66,644 FOR LORENZO FERNANDEZ. AT THE SAME TIME A LOCAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATION GAVE FERNANDEZ 22,069 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES TO 19,722 FOR PEREZ. ACCORDING TO COPEI PARTY HEADQUARTERS, FERNANDEZ HAD SOME 48,000 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES TO SOME 27,000 FOR PEREZ. LOCAL TELEVISION REPORTED THAT SOME PERSONS WERE STILL VOTING AT MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 9.

3. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCED AT 12:30 A.M. DECEMBER 10 THAT IT WILL NOT ISSUE ANY OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS UNTIL LATER DECEMBER 10. NO "SMALL CARD" (I.E., CONGRESSIONAL AND LOCAL ASSEMBLY) RESULTS HAVE YET BEEN REPORTED.

4. CARACAS MORNING DAILY EL NACIONAL IS TAKING UNUSUAL STEP OF DELAYING GOING TO PRESS UNTIL 5:30 A.M. DECEMBER 10. MONDAY MORNING HEADLINES OF EL UNIVERSAL AND ULTIMAS NOTICIAS WILL FEATURE RIVAL VOTE CLAIMS OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES. IN ADDITION, EL UNIVERSAL IS HEADLINING ITS OWN FIGURES OF 39,694 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES FOR PEREZ TO 28,086 FOR FERNANDEZ. MARACAIBO MORNINGER PANORAMA (WHICH IS PRO-AD) IS HEADLINING ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SMALL LEAD FOR PEREZ IN ZULIA BASED ON FIRST, SKETCHY AND UNOFFICIAL RETURNS.

5. COMMENT: UNOFFICIAL FIRST RETURNS INDICATE A MASSIVE CONCENTRATION OF PRESIDENTIAL VOTES FOR THE AD AND COPEI PARTIES. MCCLINTOCK

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